

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 8, 12, 13 and 17 have been amended. Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 11. Claim 12 has been amended to depend from claim 8. Claim 13 has been amended to be consistent with the amendments to claim 8. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 4-10, 12-15 and 17-25 are pending in this application.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

### ***Allowable subject matter***

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 1, 4-7, 15, 18-19, and 21-23 are allowed, and claims 10-12, 14, 17, 20 and 24-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 8, from which claim 11 depended, has been amended to include all of the subject matter of claim 11. Claim 8 is thus in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Claims 9-10, 12-14, 20 and 24-25 depend from claim 8, either directly or indirectly, and thus are also in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

### ***Claim objections***

Claim 17 has been amended to depend from claim 15, thus overcoming the objection to claim 17.

### ***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103***

Claims 8-9 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,914,759 to Higuchi et al. ("Higuchi"). Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Higuchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,797,668 to

Kojima et al. ("Kojima"). These rejections are moot in light of the amendment to claim 8 to include subject matter indicated as allowable (claims 9, 13 and 20 ultimately depend from claim 8).

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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